

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8189

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ALEG, MX

SUBJECT: WATERGATE INVESTIGATION: PROPOSED INTERVIEW OF MEXICAN
NATIONALS

REF: STATE 201449

1. DCM RAISED SUBJECT WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA
SEPTEMBER 26, ASKING WHETHER IT WOULD CAUSE GOM ANY
PROBLEMS IF TWO REPRESENTATIVES WATERGATE SPECIAL
PROSECUTION FORCE INTERVIEWED SEVERAL MEXICAN NATIONALS
ON INFORMAL AND VOLUNTARY BASIS TO CLARIFY CERTAIN
ASPECTS OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO COMMITTEE TO REELECT
PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH WATERGATE INVESTIGATION.

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO IS OBVIOUSLY FULLY FAMILIAR
WITH THE CASE AND KNOWS OGARRIO, SPECULATED ABOUT
LEGAL CONSEQUENCES THE INTERVIEWS MIGHT HAVE FOR THE
MEXICANS INVOLVED AND EXPRESSED OPINION THEY HAD
PROBABLY BROKEN MEXICAN LAW BY FAILING REPORT
INCOME. CONSEQUENTLY HE DOUBTED THEY WOULD BE
WILLING ANSWER QUESTIONS.

3. ATTORNEY GENERAL THOUGHT IN ANY EVENT GENERAL
PROCEDURE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES
FOR HANDLING SUCH LEGAL MATTERS. HE INDICATED HE
WOULD ASK SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR URGENT
ADVICE ON SUCH GENERAL PROCEDURE AND GIVE EMBASSY HIS
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OPINION OCTOBER 1. DURING CONVERSATION HE ALSO THREW

OUT IDEA OF JOINT OFFICIAL INTERROGATION ON BASIS
JUDGE TO JUDGE REQUEST.

4. COMMENT. ATTORNEY GENERAL CLEARLY INTRIGUED WITH
IDEA OF JOINT INTERROGATION AND IN ANY EVENT APPARENTLY
WANTS MATTER HANDLED WITHIN SOME OFFICIAL BILATERAL
LEGAL FRAMEWORK.
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